

rest, as evincing another proof of the impression our arms have made on the minds of the enemy. It will scarcely be credited that upwards of four thousand men, well armed and well prepared for the attack, from the unforeseen impediments the expedition met with in reaching its destination, and fighting behind defences of a very formidable nature, should be driven out of them by a mere handful of British troops. On this occasion you will be pleased to see the handsome manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Godwin speaks of the 3d Madras Native Light Infantry, one of the corps which retired from the stockade at Keykloo.\*

*Copy of a Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Godwin to Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K. C. B. dated Martaban, November 2d 1824.*

SIR,

THE force you did me the honour to place under my command for the capture of the town of Martaban and its dependencies, cleared the Rangoon river on the morning of the 14th ultimo, but owing to the ignorance of the people acting as pilots, with calms and contrary currents, the expedition did not reach Martaban till the morning of the 29th.

It was my intention to have landed on my arrival at Martaban, but the tides which run rapidly here, rendered it almost impracticable, and the ships having it in their power to get nearer the defences in the evening, I deferred landing till the next morning at day-break. I took two opportunities this day to see the whole front of the place, with Captain Waterman, Assistant Quarter Master General, and Captain Kennan, commanding the Artillery. Its appearance was uncommonly strong and commanding, and differed from any thing we have seen about here. The place rests at the bottom of a very high hill, washed by a beautiful and extensive sheet of water; on its right a rocky mound, on which was placed a two-gun battery with a deep nullah under it. This battery communicates with the usual stockade of timber, and behind this a work of masonry, varying from 12 to 20 feet thick, with small embrasures for either cannon or musketry. The stockade runs along the margin of the water for more than three quarters of a mile, where it joins a larger pagoda, which projects into the water in the form of a bastion. The defences thence continue a short distance, and end at a nullah, on the other side of which all is thick-jungle. The town continues to run in an angle way from the pagoda for at least a mile, and terminates in the house of the Mayoos, close to a stockade up the hill. The whole defence is the waterline with its flanks protected.

The rear of the town and works is composed of thick jungle and large trees, and open to the summit of the hill: as we moved along the place all was silent, not a gun to be perceived, but a slight wicker-work to hide every thing behind the embrasures in the pagoda, and few men to be observed on the works. They never offered to fire on the

boat, though rather close in shore. The second time we went to look at it, the same silence prevailed, so that we were induced to think the place abandoned. Shortly, however, after this remark, the ships had approached nearer the works, when a well-directed fire was opened on them from the fort on the height, and down the line a well pointed gun, from the pagoda, with grape, was at the same time, fired at my boat and wounded a seaman of the Moira, whose arm was amputated an hour after. I was prepared for a determined resistance by the quantities of boats filled with men crossing; as we went up the river, two chokeys opened a smart but useless fire on us—I made it a rule never to fire first.

All the night of the 29th, there was a cannonade from both sides, and the excellent practice of Captain Kennan, of the Madras artillery, commanding, assisted by Lieutenant M'Gregor, of the Bengal artillery, in the bomb vessel, must have done great execution among the defenders of the works; whose repeated cheers informed us that their numbers were great.

I had made up my mind to storm the escalade immediately under, and to the left of the rocky battery on the enemy's right; and when in, to storm the battery itself, and then the business could be but easy, as we should take all the works in flank.

At five o'clock in the morning of the 30th, the men composing the first division, were in their boats. Ninety-eight men of His Majesty's 41st regiment, seventy-five of the 3d Native light infantry, eight of the Bengal artillery, and thirty-eight seamen of the Royal Navy—about two hundred and twenty men; and I was fully aware that these men would have the business to themselves, as I had no where to wait for the remainder of the force, and every boat was already occupied. The advance sounded a little after five, and the boats rowed off, and soon came under a very heavy fire of all arms. On approaching the shore, I perceived there had been a misunderstanding with respect to the spot at which I wished to land, and we had got on the wrong side of the nullah, as we could not carry the ladders through the mud. I ordered the boats to push off and put in at the place I appointed; at this time a heavy fire of artillery and musketry was on us, and the lascars would not face it. Lieutenant Keele, of the Arachne, commanding the naval force, with me, pushed on shore, and gallantly went to see if the nullah could be passed; he came back almost directly, and informed me, there was a boat in the nullah, over which the men could go, and the side of the rock to the battery appeared practicable. Trusting to the gallantry of the people with me, I determined to try it, and from the men getting on shore, there was not a halt till we had possession of it. It was stormed under a heavy fire of musketry, and the rock not high, but to appearance impracticable, and in the opinion of the enemy it was so.

The enemy did not leave the fort till we were within a few paces of them, and they even threw stones at us, when we were too much under the fort for the fire to reach us. It is due to Captain Burrows, of His Majesty's 41st regiment, and Lieutenant Keele, Royal navy, to say they were in first. I now felt secure of the place, and after waiting till the men had recovered from the exertion, and to

\* See London Gazette 25th of March 1825, p. 501 et seq.